What's all this PFAS/PFOA stuff about?

PFAS and PFOA are manmade plastics that are used in a variety of products and ways. There are over 9,000 PFAS/PFOA plastics, but for simplification we'll group them as "PFAS". These plastics resist reacting to other elements such as water, heat, oil, and others. Because of their resistance to reacting with their surroundings, they keep their product safe, and thus are highly valuable. They are everywhere. From our floss, stain resistant clothes, non-stick cookware, to our carpet and on our glossy paper products. These products break down and enter our lakes and streams, where we get our drinking water. However, because of their resistance to other materials, they also do not break down completely and are difficult to filter out of the environment, and will continually accumulate over time.

What's the health affects? How common is it found in people?

While there may be health affects to humans, studies with animals have shown developmental problems when exposed to large amounts of PFAS. Recent studies from the CDC of humans found traces of PFAS in all their subjects. Science is repeatedly updating the health effects of PFAS.

What regulations are occurring to protect the water? What do we do?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to put proper regulations on the treatment of water to regulate what is an acceptable level. Given how recent PFAS has been discovered, it will take years to create regulations that are accurate and enforceable. So far the water being treated at Wyoming is all under the regulations currently being projected at the national and state level. Given the large cost to filter out these chemicals, and that the studies on the affects of human health are still new, and that the larger environment contains PFAS, the EPA will likely enforce limits as early as 2025. In March of 2023 the EPA set it's projected limits on PFOS and PFOA at 4 parts per trillion, (ppt).

Jamestown Charter Township
2380 Riley St.
Hudsonville, MI 49426

You are invited to attend township meetings which are held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Jamestown Township operates the water system using contracted services. Contact Jaime Fleming, at (616) 261-3572 or flemingj@wyomingmi.gov for technical questions about this report, or with any water quality questions.

Esta publicación contiene información importante sobre el agua que usted bebe diariamente. Si no lo entiende, busque a alguien que se lo traduzca o le explique su contenido. Para mas información, llame al (616) 530-7389 o visite página electrónica. www.epa.gov/espanol/

To request a hard copy of this report, please contact the Jamestown Water and Sewer Department at: sboss@twp.jamestown.mi.us , or call the office at 616-896-8376.

Go to the Utilities page to find information about paying bills online, Water/Sewer rates and fees, and emergency contact information, and MORE! Go to: twp.jamestown.mi.us/utilities

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people may seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include all of the following:
(A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
(B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
(C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
(D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
(E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water supplies. Federal Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that shall provide the same protection for public health.

JAMESTOWN
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2023 Water Quality Report

Out of Jamestown's 1,350 water service lines, all have been identified in pipe material and none contain lead service lines. We have also tested for PFAS/PFOS plastics and received zero detection. We are pleased to report that your drinking water meets, and often is better than, all state and federal guidelines for safe drinking water.

Included in the details of this water quality report is important information about where your water comes from, what's in it, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. However, the presence of contaminants in drinking water does not necessarily indicate that the drinking water poses a health risk.

We purchase water from the City of Wyoming whose rain, groundwater, rivers, and streams feed into Lake Michigan, dissolving naturally occurring minerals and sometimes picking up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Some of the substances that can make their way into Lake Michigan are: viruses and bacteria from animal, agricultural, and human activities, salts, metals, pesticides and herbicides, as well as by-products of industrial processes. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) that limit the amount of certain contaminants in your drinking water. Wyoming water supply has a moderately high susceptibility to contaminants. For a copy of the most current Source Water Assessment of the water system, please call our office at 616-399-6511.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the State of Michigan require all community water system suppliers to put the annual water quality report into the hands of their consumers. Rule 63 FR 44511, effective August, 19, 1998 requires that all water suppliers shall mail or otherwise directly deliver one copy of their consumer confidence report to each billing customer.

Definition Key

AL Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers a treatment or other requirement, which a water system must follow.

MCL Maximum Contaminant Level: the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water; MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health; MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL Maximum Residual Disinfection Level: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG´s do not reflect the benefits to the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

NA Not applicable

ND Not Detected

NTU Nephelometric Turbidity Unit: measurements of minute suspended particles, used to judge water clarity.

ppm parts per million or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb parts per billion or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppt parts per trillion or nanograms per liter (ng/l)

TT Treatment Technique: a required process, intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

We add fluoride to your tap water to help build strong, healthy teeth that resist decay.

Water fluoridation has been recognized as one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the 20th century by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Water Quality Report

Each day, our staff works to ensure the water delivered to your home meets all regulatory requirements and your expectations for safety, reliability and quality. For your protection, your drinking water is tested for many parameters. The table below shows only the substances detected in your water during the calendar year.

2023

REGULATED MONITORING AT THE TREATMENT PLANT

SUBSTANCE	UNITS	Level Found	MCL	MCLG	Samples Exceeding MCL	POSSIBLE SOURCES
Fluoride	ppm	0.84	4	4	0	Additive which promotes strong teeth
Barium	ppm	0.025	2	2	0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge of drilling wastes or metal refineries
Turbidity	NTU	0.08	TT = 1 NTU	NA	0	Soil runoff and natural sediment

100% of Turbidity sample levels were found to be < 0.3 NTU.

REGULATED MONITORING IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

SUBSTANCE	UNITS	Range	Highest Running Annual Average	MCL	MCLG	Samples Exceeding MCL	POSSIBLE SOURCES
Chlorine Residual	ppm	0.38 - 1.12	0.75	4	MRDLG=4	0	Used to disinfect drinking water
Haloacetic Acids	ppb	15.7 - 16.6	16.15	60	NA	0	Formed when chlorine is added to water with naturally occurring organic material
Trihalomethanes	ppb	22 - 26	24	80	NA	0	

REGULATED MONITORING AT CUSTOMER'S TAP

Compliance is determined using the 90th percentile, where nine out of ten samples must be below the Action Level. Testing was conducted in 2022.

SUBSTANCE	UNITS	Range	90th Percentile	AL	MCLG	Samples Exceeding AL	POSSIBLE SOURCES
Copper	ppm	0.0 - 0.3	0.2	1.3	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing system, erosion of natural deposits
Lead	ppb	0 - 2.2	0	15	0	0	Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing systems including fittings and fixtures, erosion of natural deposits

UNREGULATED MONITORING

SUBSTANCE	UNITS	REPORTED LEVEL	SOURCE
Hardness	ppm	83 - 114	Naturally present due to dissolved calcium and magnesium salt
pH	pH units	7.6 - 7.96	pH is an important measurement of the acidity or alkalinity of water
Chloride	ppm	16.7 - 22.8	Naturally present in the environment
Sodium	ppm	10 - 12	Naturally present in the environment

Results were gathered from tests performed by the City of Wyoming's certified lab, as well as the State of Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality laboratory and other certified private laboratories. As authorized by the EPA, the State has reduced monitoring requirements for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are not expected to vary significantly from year to year.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We are responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you have a lead service line it is recommended that you run your water for at least 5 minutes to flush water from both your home plumbing and the lead service line.

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested.

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Testing is also performed to detect the presence of Cryptosporidium and Giardia, which are protozoan parasites that occur in natural surface waters such as lakes, rivers and streams. Wyoming's water treatment process provides multiple barriers, including clarification, filtration, and disinfection, to lower the risk of these contaminants in finished tap water. Monitoring of treated water samples yielded a 100% removal rate, highlighting the effectiveness of the treatment system in microscopic particle removal. For information on microbiological testing, contact the Wyoming laboratory at 616-261-3572.

For more information about contaminants and potential health effects, call the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: (800) 426-4971 or visit www.epa.gov/safewater/dwhealth